INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C21D8/02 C22C38/22 C22C38/24 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C21D C22C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data, WPI Data, INSPEC C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1-6 EP 0 288 054 A (NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION) X 26 October 1988 (1988-10-26) claims 1-5; tables 1-3 7-10 A 7-10 PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN X vol. 007, no. 022 (C-148), 28 January 1983 (1983-01-28) & JP 57 177927 A (NITSUSHIN SEIKOU KK), 1 November 1982 (1982-11-01) abstract 1,2,4,5, US 6 669 789 B1 (EDELMAN DANIEL GEOFFREY X 10 ET AL) 30 December 2003 (2003-12-30) 3,6 claims 1-10; tables 1-7 1-10 US 3 539 404 A (ANTHONY F. DERETANA) 10 November 1970 (1970-11-10) the whole document Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the confinuation of box C. * Special categories of olled documents: T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular retevance "E" earlier document but published on or efter the international stimp date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may Shrow doubts on priority chalm(s) or which is clied to establish the publication date of enother disting or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the ctained invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other; such document, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. Or document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition of document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *8* document member of the same patent territy Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 18/10/2005 10 October 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA Enropean Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patenthan 2 NL - 2280 HV RB-W\$k Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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